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PRESS RELEASE

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CHANGES IN SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL U. S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

James A. McDevitt, U. S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, is pleased to announce the selection of two new supervisory Assistant United States Attorneys for the District.

Thomas O. Rice is the new First Assistant United States Attorney, replacing William "Bill" H. Beatty, who retired on January 31, 2006 after three decades of service to the Department of Justice. Mr. Rice graduated from Gonzaga University Law School in 1986 and began his service with the Department of Justice as a trial attorney for the Department of Justice Tax Division in Washington D.C. In June of 1987 he became an Assistant United States Attorney here in the Eastern District of Washington and was appointed Criminal Chief for the District in early 2003. Mr. Rice has done an outstanding job as Criminal Chief and brings a wealth of talent to the position of First Assistant.

Robert "Bud" E. Ellis is the new Chief of the Criminal Division, replacing Tom Rice. Mr. Ellis graduated from University of Texas Law School in December of 1977 and was admitted to the Washington State Bar in 1978. He was in private practice from 1978 to 1986, at which time he became a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Franklin County, a position he held until September of 1990. At that time, Mr. Ellis became an Assistant United States Attorney in the Yakima office where he has handled a wide range of both civil and criminal cases. As Criminal Chief, Mr. Ellis will be responsible for supervising the prosecution of all criminal cases brought by the United States in this District.

Mr. Rice and Mr. Ellis are both outstanding attorneys and managers, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to announce my selection of them as supervisory Assistant United States Attorneys.